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new universe™

JUSTICE™

1987 The Year of The Reader

HERE IN THE WINTERLAND, THE SUN SHINES BUT RARELY, AND A DARKNESS OF THE SPIRIT LIES OVER THE EARTH.

HERE IN THE WINTERLAND, MEN PLOT THE DESTRUCTION OF OTHER MEN AND THE DESECRATION OF LIFE.

HERE IN THE WINTERLAND, EVIL HAS A NAME AND NONE DARES OPPOSE IT, FOR IN THE WINTERLAND THERE IS NO.

JUSTICE

YOU KNOW, DAD, I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT TODAY.

TODAY'S THE DAY WE FINALLY DO IT.

HOUR OF CORRUPTION

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ON EARTH HE IS KNOWN AS DAMON CONQUEST, MYSTERIOUS HEAD OF A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION WHOSE INFLUENCE EXTENDS OVER THE GOVERNMENTS OF A DOZEN NATIONS.

HERE IN THE WINTERLAND, HE IS DAD'S SON... A POSITION THAT GIVES HIM POWER BEYOND A MADMAN'S DREAMS.

WE PLANNED FOR MONTHS, DAD... PUT OUR AGENTS IN PLACE ...WORKED HARD TO WEAKEN OUR ENEMY... CONSUMED CORRUPTION FROM THE SICKENED SOULS OF HUMANITY ON EARTH... AND NOW WE'RE *READY* AT LAST.

THE *KING OF SPRING* MOURNS THE LOSS OF *TENSEN*, HIS FRIEND AND VASSAL JUSTICE-WARRIOR.

THE *QUEEN OF SPRING* GRIEVES THE LOSS OF *TENSEN*, HER LOVER.

AND *TENSEN* HIMSELF, EXILED ON EARTH, LAMENTS THE REPORTED DEATH OF *REBECCA CHAMBERS*.

SO MUCH SORROW, SO MUCH PITY... SO USEFUL TO OUR NEEDS.

DESPAIR IS SUCH A FERTILE FIELD FOR THE SOWING OF CORRUPTION.

WHAT IS IT, KABOR?

I BEG PARDON, LORD DAMON...

WAR CHIEF MALAKITE HAS ARRIVED TO REPORT PREPARATIONS FOR THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE LAND OF SPRING.

SHOW HIM IN, KABOR.

YOU'LL FIND THIS INTERESTING, DAD.

IN THE SHADOWS, SOMETHING GRUNTS APPROVAL.

MALAKITE REPORTING.

OUR NIGHT WARRIORS ARE IN POSITION ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN WINTER AND SPRING.

WE REQUIRE ONLY THE FINAL INFUSION OF DARK POWER TO LAUNCH OUR ASSAULT.

EXCELLENT. AND HOW FARE THE JUSTICE WARRIORS OF SPRING? DO THEY MOBILIZE TO REPULSE OUR ATTACK?

ON THE CONTRARY-- THEY LANGUISH LIKE FRIGHTENED WOMEN, TOO DISCOURAGED BY THEIR KING'S BLEAK MOOD TO READY THEMSELVES FOR WARFARE.

GIVE MY TROOPS THE DARK POWER THEY NEED--AND WE WILL CRUSH THE WARRIORS OF SPRING LIKE ROSE PETALS BENEATH OUR BOOTED HEELS

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TALKING WITH YOU, MALAKITE.

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR *DARK POWER* BEFORE DAY'S END.

OUR AGENTS ON EARTH ARE COMPLETING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS NOW.

THEN WE ATTACK AT *SUNSET.*

WITH YOUR *PERMISSION,* I'LL REJOIN MY TROOPS.

DO THAT, MALAKITE. TELL YOUR MEN HOW *PROUD* WE ARE OF THEM, *DAD* AND I.

YOU SEE, DAD? BY TOMORROW'S DAWN, THIS WORLD WILL BE OURS.

AND ONE MAN ALONE WILL BE THE AUTHOR OF SPRING'S *DOWNFALL!*

TENSEN, WHO CALLS HIMSELF *JUSTICE.*

HAVE I SERVED YOU WELL, DAD? HAVE I BEEN YOUR FAITHFUL SON?

IN THE SHADOWS, SOMETHING SHIFTS PONDEROUSLY...

...AND A VOICE LIKE BLACK ASH BORNE ON A VOLCANIC WIND BREATHES AN ALMOST INAUDIBLE SIGH OF CONTENTMENT...

YES, BOY.

I AM PLEASED.

HE WAS EVIL. I SAW IT IN HIS AURA AND IN HIS ACTIONS; AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO JUDGE HIM.

THE SWORD OF MY RIGHT HAND STRUCK HIM DOWN, AS THE SHIELD OF MY LEFT HAND PROTECTED ME FROM HIS WEAPON.

HE DEALT IN DRUGS.

I DEAL IN JUSTICE.

SINCE I CAME TO THIS WORLD, THIS "EARTH," MONTHS AGO, I HAVE SEEN CORRUPTION TAKE MANY FORMS.

BUT THESE MERCHANTS OF CHEMICAL OBLIVION REEK WITH A SPECIAL STENCH OF DECAY.

STILL, I DID NOT STRIKE IN ANGER; A JUSTICE WARRIOR MUST NEVER JUDGE WITH PASSION.

I WANT TO GO HOME.

I WANT TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF SPRING.

I WANT TO END MY EXILE.

BUT I CANNOT.

MY FRIEND, THE WIZARD *WEBSTRAL*, TOLD ME I HAVE BEEN *CORRUPTED* BY THIS LAND -- AND I BELIEVE HIM.

BUT MY SINS BEGAN IN THE LAND OF SPRING, WHEN I BETRAYED MY *KING* BY LOVING HIS *QUEEN* -- TOO WELL.

I HAVE BEEN *PUNISHED* FOR THAT TREACHERY. I CANNOT RETURN TO THE LAND I LOVE.

AND WORSE ...

...I HAVE FOUND *ANOTHER* LOVE AS DEAR AS ANY OTHER I HAVE KNOWN, AND SHE, TOO, HAS BEEN *TAKEN* FROM ME...

THERE IS YOUR *ENEMY*, REBECCA CHAMBERS. WHAT DO YOU *FEEL* WHEN YOU LOOK UPON HIM?

HATE!

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I FEEL, DAMON?

HE IS WEAKNESS; YOU ARE POWER. I HATE HIM; I LOVE YOU. I WANT HIM DESTROYED; I WANT YOU TRIUMPHANT.

SUCH A CHARMER. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE ONCE STOOD ON OPPOSITE SIDES, REBECCA.

DON'T YOU EVER... RESENT ME, FOR WHAT I'VE DONE TO YOUR MIND?

YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT SHOW ME THE TRUTH OF LIFE, DAMON.

POWER MATTERS

NOT GOOD, NOT EVIL. ONLY POWER.

WHEN I WORKED FOR THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, SOME PART OF ME MUST HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT. I WAS ATTRACTED TO TENSEN BECAUSE HE HAD POWER --

-- BUT IN THE END, HE FAILED TO USE IT. HE LET YOU TAKE ME. HE WAS WEAK.

KILL HIM OR LET ME

OH HE'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH, REBECCA.

BUT NOT WHILE HIS CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS STILL USEFUL TO ME

WE'VE WAITED WEEKS TO LET HIS WOUNDS HEAL AND HIS HEART FALL DEEPER INTO DESPAIR.

NOW HE'S READY. THIS IS THE HOUR OF CORRUPTION.

THE 'POLICE' OF THIS LAND SAY REBECCA IS *DEAD*; THEY BELIEVE I KILLED HER: THEY ARRESTED ME, RELEASED ME, AND NOW *HUNT* ME AGAIN.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE *LOST* HER.

HIDING FROM THIS WORLD'S JUSTICE, I HAVE BEEN HIDING ONLY FROM *MYSELF*.

PERHAPS IT IS *TIME* FOR ME TO--

ALL MEN SHOULD BE FRIGHTENED WHEN THEY MEET *BLACK JUSTICE*

HIS FLESH SEEMS TO *BUBBLE* IN THE SUNLIGHT STEAM RISING FROM HIS PORES LIKE SMOKE FROM A SMOLDERING FIRE

I KNOW HIM ONLY BY *REPUTATION*

HAIRS LIFT AT THE BACK OF MY NECK

I *AM* FRIGHTENED

KLANE... YOUR NAME IS KLANE AND ONCE YOU SERVED THE KING OF SPRING ONCE YOU WERE A JUSTICE WARRIOR.

RUMOR HAS IT YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE POWER YOU COMMANDED AND THAT THE LOVE TURNED TO LUST...

RUMOR DISTORTS, JUSTICE WARRIOR

WHAT I FELT FOR POWER WAS LOVE LOVE OR LUST THAN IT WAS HUNGER.

A DRACONIC MYSTIC ONCE THE MASTERS OF THE WINTERLAND COULD FEED

I CRAVE POWER AND ITS PRACTICE THE WAY A STARVING MAN YEARNS FOR FOOD

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT CAN YOU?

AAAA

DARKNESS EMBRACES ME HER COLD BLACK FINGERS DRAW ME CLOSE, HER LIPS TOUCH MY EYES

THE NIGHT CALL, JUSTICE WARRIOR A GIFT FROM MY MASTERS.

FEEL IT ABSORB YOUR FEARS AND NIGHTMARES

I CANNOT SCREAM

I HOPE TO TEAR THE HORROR FROM MY EYES

BUT RED AGONY PUNCTURES MY HANDS LIKE AN ELECTRIC

LET THE CALL GO IT - [illegible] ... NO MATTER YOUR MIND IT WILL SOON [illegible]

[illegible] MY GREAT [illegible]

"WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN

I THINK I'LL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE AND JOIN YOUR LOVER REBECA IN A LITTLE WHILE

EH**

MY SWORD HAND LIES PINNED BENEATH MY BODY, BUT MY SHIELD IS FREE

I STRIKE WITH ALL THE STRENGTH THAT I CAN MUSTER

HE BARELY STAGGERS - LESS WITH THE IMPACT THAN WITH SURPRISE

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF BECKY CHAMBERS?

IS SHE DEAD?

[illegible]

AND I WILL AGAIN IF YOU DON'T ANSWER MY QUESTION

AN ANSWER IS [illegible] YOU WANT?

HERE IS MY ANSWER, JUSTICE WARRIOR

[illegible]

[illegible] TO DIE!

HOW GOES THE OPERATION DOCTOR?

QUITE WELL, MASTER DAMON QUITE WELL *QUITE* WELL

THE PELLET YOU IMPLANTED IN THE JUSTICE WARRIOR DURING HIS *TRANSPORTATION* FROM CITY TO DESERT FUNCTIONS PRECISELY AS WE EXPECTED

EVERY *EMOTION* TENSEN FEELS... EVER THROB OF *ANGER* OR *FEAR*... IS TRANSFERRED HERE, TO OUR *COLLECTOR*

THE *ORE* OF HIS SOUL IS QUITE RICH. QUITE RICH. *QUITE* RICH

BUT HAS HE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY *CORRUPTED* BY HIS EXPERIENCES ON EARTH TO SUIT OUR *PURPOSE*?

WE'LL KNOW *QUITE* SOON. *QUITE* SOON. *QUITE* SOON

ALWAYS BEFORE, WHEN HE USED HIS *SWORD OF JUSTICE*, TENSEN *REMAINED* TRUE TO THE JUSTICE WARRIOR'S CODE--

DESPITE PROVOCATION, HE HAS *NEVER* STRUCK DOWN AN ENEMY IN *ANGER*

FOR A JUSTICE WARRIOR TO POSSESS IN ANGER WOULD BE THE *ULTIMATE* CORRUPTION

AND IF HE *SHOULD* COMMIT SUCH AN *ACT*

WE'RE QUITE READY QUITE READY *QUITE* READY

AND SO IS THE *TERMINATOR*

EXCELLENT WORK DOCTOR... AS *ALWAYS*

NEW YORK NEW YORK-

RRRRING!!

NEVER FAILS START TO TAKE A SHOWER, AND OF COURSE--HELLO DANIELLE STONE

..OH. HELLO DARLING I DON'T EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU SO SOON I'M GLAD YOU CALLED

THE POLICE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR OUR FRIEND--MY "CLIENT." JUST AS YOU WANTED

I DOUBT TENSEN HAS HAD A MOMENT'S PEACE IN THE LAST TWO-

ALL THAT OFF DARLING IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS I'M THE DEFENSE LAWYER NOT THE PROSECUTOR EVEN WITH AN UNOFFICIAL CONTACT I COULDN'T-

TRUST ME DANIELLE TENSEN WAS BREATHING AS WE SPEAK. BUT HE'S AS MUCH A CORPSE AS ANY WEEK-OLD CARRION HE CAN BE

HE'S DEAD?

ARE YOU CERTAIN?

YOUR WORK IN NEW YORK IS FINISHED. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT PERFECT FOR YOUR SKILLS IN WASHINGTON.

I FIGHT THE PAIN.

ONLY THE THOUGHT OF REBECCA KEEPS ME CONSCIOUS

SOMETHING IN [illegible] LAUGH TELLS ME SHE'S STILL ALIVE

KLANE TELL ME SHE LIVES

OH, IS IT THE GIRL WHO CONCERNS YOU, JUSTICE WARRIOR? THEN PUT YOUR FEARS TO REST

[illegible] IS A THING TO FEEL ALMOST AS DEEP AND TRUE AS WHAT I FEAR YOU ONCE FELT FOR THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

THE HUMAN HEART IS A [illegible] ORGAN I UNDERSTAND

REBECCA CHAMBERS LIVES, JUSTICE WARRIOR. AND LIVES SHE'LL WELL AS MISTRESS, TO HIS MASTER SOON!

[illegible]

IT HELPS TO DRAW ON [illegible] STRENGTH FROM PAIN [illegible]

[illegible]

DO I, JUSTICE WARRIOR? WHAT DOES YOUR TRUE HEART TELL YOU WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

YOU LIE!

SHHK

IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION.

AS HE DIES, I SWEAR I SEE KLANE GRIN IN TRIUMPH.

ANGER RECEDES AND AGONY RETURNS.

EACH BREATH I DRAW ACHES LIKE A KNIFE IN MY CHEST.

I WANT TO SLEEP.

I WANT TO DIE...

POOR TENSEN. POOR LOST JUSTICE WARRIOR.

DID THE BIG BAD MAN HURT YOU?

GOD. I HOPE SO.

YOU'RE SUCH A DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME, TENSEN. JUST AS DAMON PREDICTED, YOU LET ANGER OVERWHELM YOU.

YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

DAMON WILL USE THE CORRUPTION HE'S BEEN SIPHONING FROM YOUR SOUL TO DESTROY YOUR HOMELAND.

THE LAND OF SPRING WILL FALL... BECAUSE OF YOU.

"YOU'RE PATHETIC."

"CORRUPT."

"WEAK."

HER AURA IS COMPLETELY DARK.

SHE IS LOST TO ME, AND I TO HER...

I ASKED DAMON TO LET ME FINISH YOU, BUT LOOKING AT YOU NOW, I HAVE TO ASK... WHAT'S THE POINT?

YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD, TENSEN.

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.

I PRAY FOR OBLIVION...

... BUT THIS TIME NOT EVEN DARKNESS WILL CLAIM ME...

SO ENDS THE STORY OF *TENSEN*, JUSTICE WARRIOR, BETRAYER OF HIS KING, HIS QUEEN, HIS HOMELAND...

...AND ULTIMATELY, *HIMSELF*.

OUR FORCES MASS ON THE BORDERLAND OF SPRING. WITH THE INFUSION OF *DARK POWER* TAKEN FROM TENSEN'S SOUL AT THE MOMENT OF HIS COMPLETE *CORRUPTION*, THEY NOW WILL BECOME *INVINCIBLE*.

URP.

EXCELLENT MEAL, QATAR. YOUR YOUNG *ALWAYS* SATISFY.

BY THE MORROW, SPRING WILL BE OURS!

FIRST WE WILL CRUSH ALL RESISTANCE. THE KING OF SPRING WILL DIE. HIS WIZARD WEBSTRAL WILL DIE. EVERY JUSTICE WARRIOR WHO SURVIVES OUR ASSAULT WILL BE HUNTED BY MY ACOLYTES AND WHEN THEY ARE FOUND, THEY WILL DIE

THE CHILDREN WILL BE REMOVED TO RETRAINING CAMPS, WHERE THEY WILL LEARN OUR WAYS. THOSE WHO FAIL TO ADAPT WILL DIE.

FOR THE QUEEN OF SPRING, I PLAN A SPECIAL FATE. WHAT BETTER WAY TO MERGE OUR KINGDOMS THAN BY A MERGING OF OUR ROYAL BLOOD?

THE QUEEN OF SPRING WILL BEAR MY SON.

WHAT A PITY. SHE MUST DIE IN CHILDBIRTH.

WELL, DAD? WHAT DO YOU THINK? HAVE I MADE YOU PROUD?

IN THE SHADOWS, SOMETHING MOVES

IN THE SHADOWS, DAD LAUGHS...

...AND A COLD WIND BLOWS HARSH OVER THE WINTERLAND...

IT'S NOT OVER YET! NEVER COUNT OUT A JUSTICE WARRIOR BEFORE HE'S SIX FEET UNDER.

NEXT MONTH "THE DARK BEFORE THE DAWN!"